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Atty. Dkt. No. 054707-1263

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Takashi TSUKAMOTO et al.

Title: THIOLACTONES

Appl. No.: 10/791,278

Filing Date: 03/03/2004

Examiner: S. E. Lee

Art Unit: 1626

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated May 31, 2005, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Election/Restriction Requirement

Applicants affirm election of Group I and, as the species, 3-[(2-oxotetrahydro-2H-thiopyran-3-yl)methyl]benzoic acid (*see* compound 1, Table I, page 25), for examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional application(s) to pursue the non-elected subject matter, and to rejoin method claims commensurate in scope with allowed product claims.